

IN THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A stent delivery system comprising:

a delivery catheter having an inner tubular member having a region for mounting a compressed stent thereon with a tip assembly including a tip component having a tapered shape which facilitates the insertion and delivery of the delivery catheter in a patient's body vessel attached to the mounting region and an outer tubular member having a restraining sheath overlying a portion of said inner tubular member, the outer tubular member and restraining sheath being adapted for axial movement with respect to said inner tubular member, the tip component being made from a polymeric material compounded with a radiopaque substance; and

a housing assembly having a pull-back handle slidably mounted on a base, said inner tubular member having a proximal end attached to said base and said outer tubular member having a proximal end attached to said pull-back handle wherein movement of said pull-back handle proximally retracts said restraining sheath proximally from the compressed stent on the inner tubular member, while the inner tubular member remains stationary.

18. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, further including means for evacuating air from the delivery catheter.

19. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component is made from poly-ether-block amide.

20. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component is made from poly-ether-block amide which contains BaSO₄.

21. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component includes a wire coil molded into the polymeric material.

22. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 21, wherein the wire coil is molded into urethane material.

23. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein said inner tubular member includes a guide wire lumen extending from the proximal end of the inner tubular member to the distal end of the inner tubular member.

24. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, further including means for evacuating air from the delivery catheter.

25. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 24, wherein an annular space is formed between the outer tubular member and the inner tubular member and the delivery further comprising an opening in the inner tubular member which is in fluid communication with the annular space and the guide wire lumen, wherein fluid may be introduced into the guide wire lumen through the opening in the inner tubular member so that the fluid is introduced into annular space and eventually flows through the distal end of the outer tubular member and a distal opening formed on the tip assembly.

26. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip assembly includes a tip component having a tapered shape which facilitates the insertion and delivery of the delivery catheter in a patient's body vessel, the tip component being made from PEBAX.

27. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component is made from PEBAX which contains BaSO₄.

28. (New) A stent delivery catheter comprising:

an inner tubular member having a lumen for receiving a guide wire and a region for mounting a compressed stent thereon;

a tip assembly including a tip component having a tapered shape which facilitates the insertion and delivery of the delivery catheter in a patient's body vessel attached distally to the mounting region, the tip component being made from a polymeric material compounded with a radiopaque substance;

an outer tubular member adapted for axial movement with respect to the inner tubular member and including a restraining sheath overlying the stent mounting region formed on the inner tubular member; and

means for moving the outer tubular member relative to the inner member while maintaining the inner tubular member in a stationary position.